WAID • AUGUSTYN • KITSON • BAIR

JLA™ YEAR ONE

NO.8

AUG '98

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

EXPOSED!

dccomics.com

What have I got to lose?

...AND THESE WILL BE OUR *HOST BODIES*. GENGINEERED USING THE APPELLAXIAN DNA CAPTURED FROM THE *JUSTICE LEAGUE*--

--THEY'RE *MORE* THAN FORMIDABLE ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND THE *NEXT PHASE* OF OUR PLAN.

MARVELOUS.

It's not as if I have any roots in the world, any connections.

No one to miss me. No one TO miss.

HEAR ME, PEOPLE! THE END IS NEAR-- AND I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER!

IF ANYONE HAS ANY WORLDLY AFFAIRS TO WRAP... ANY LOOSE ENDS TO TIE, FAREWELLS TO BID... TODAY IS YOUR LAST DAY.

That's what makes it easy, right?

ANDERSON! PAY ATTENTION!

TOMORROW, EVERYTHING CHANGES.

TOMORROW, THE EARTH BELONGS TO LOCUS.

AND AS FOR THE JUSTICE LEAGUE...

...ANYBODY ELSE GOT ANY BRIGHT IDEAS?

...WELL...

LOOSE ENDS

MARK WAID
BRIAN AUGUSTYN
BARRY KITSON
STORYTELLERS

MICHAEL BAIR
INKER

KEN LOPEZ
LETTERER

PAT GARRAHY
COLORIST

HEROIC AGE
SEPARATIONS

PETER TOMASI
EDITOR

I CAN'T BELIEVE SUPERMAN SAID HE *WOULDN'T* JOIN.

"MY TIME IS NOT MY OWN." WHOSE *IS*? LANTERN, HOW MANY FREE EVENINGS DO *YOU* HAVE THESE DAYS?

LANTERN?

WHAT'S *HIS* PROBLEM...?

THAT'S NOT THE MOST INTERESTING THING SUPERMAN *SAID*, THOUGH.

THINK BACK TO HOW WE FIRST GOT *TOGETHER*.

"WORKING INDEPENDENTLY, WE BATTLED *FIVE ALIEN CREATURES* WHO HAD ARRIVED ON EARTH IN *METEORLIKE SHIPS*."

"WE STOPPED THEM FROM TURNING ORDINARY PEOPLE INTO *FOOT SOLDIERS* FOR THEIR *ARMIES*."

WORKING TOGETHER, WE DEFEATED A *SIXTH* ALIEN, AND LEARNED THAT THEY WERE *ALL* FROM A DISTANT WORLD CALLED *APPELLAX*--

--AND THAT THEY WERE USING *EARTH* AS THEIR *BATTLE-FIELD* TO DETERMINE WHICH OF THEM WAS MOST FIT TO RULE THEIR *EMPIRE*.

"WE ASSUMED THAT WAS *ALL* OF THEM--BUT SUPERMAN SAYS HE NEUTRALIZED A *SEVENTH* ALIEN THAT DAY.

"IF HE FOUND ONE WE NEVER *KNEW* ABOUT... WHO'S TO SAY THERE WEREN'T EVEN *MORE*?"

NOT *ME*.

SNAPPER, WHAT DID YOU *HACK*?

TODAY? NORAD, SKYLAB II, THE RUSSIAN SATELLITE WEB, AND THE RED ARMY MAINFRAME. CHECK IT *OUT*.

I'VE OVERLAID THE TRAJECTORY OF EVERY *UFO* ENTERING EARTH'S *AIRSPACE* THAT DAY.

YOU SAID THERE WERE *SEVEN* METEORS?

I... COUNT EIGHT.

SNAP SNAP

MR. ANDERSON! HOW *ARE* YOU ON THIS GLORIOUS DAY?

?

FINE, I SUPPOSE, MR...

GENUARDI! HOW YOU NOT KNOW ME, HUH? YOU COME BY HERE FOR *YEARS!*

HOW IS YOUR *BROTHER?* YOU SAID HE WAS *SICK* ONCE...

I'M... NOT SURE, MR...

GENUARDI! YOU CALLA ME *MR. G,* IT'S *EASIER!* WELL... YOU TAKE *CARE!*

FLOWERS

MR. ANDERSON? MY HUSBAND AND I ARE HAVING A LITTLE *GET-TOGETHER* THIS SATURDAY. WE KNOW WE HAVEN'T BEEN THE CLOSEST *NEIGHBORS...*

YIP! YIP!

...BUT WE HOPE YOU'LL COME.

I'M BUSY, MRS...

...MA'AM. BUT... THANK YOU.

SHUSH, DUSTY!

OH, WILL YOU *LISTEN* TO HIM? HE'S SO *HIGH-STRUNG,* MY DUSTY IS! I HOPE HE GROWS *OUT* OF IT!

I...

YIP! YIP! YIP!

...I DON'T THINK YOU NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.

"ONE METEOR UNACCOUNTED FOR. SNAPPER'S SURE THIS IS WHERE IT LANDED?"

WELCOME TO STAR CITY HARBOR

WITHIN A QUARTER

MILE OR SO.

SEE

ANYTHING?

NO. GO FASTER. CLEAR A BIGGER AREA.

I CAN'T

REALLY GO MUCH FAS--

I SAID DO IT. NOW.

...

OKAY.

NO NEED TO GET SNARKY.

THANK YOU FOR ACCOMPANYING ME, MY FRIENDS.

YOUR ASSISTANCE IS MUCH APPRECIATED. CONTINUE THE SEARCH WHILE I--

!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHAT SORT OF ECOLOGICAL HAVOC YOU'RE WREAKING WITH A WATERSPOUT?

IT WAS MY CALL. WE'RE DONE HERE, ANYWAY.

MAYBE IT LANDED ON THE COAST. I NEED YOU TWO TO CHECK ANYTHING LARGER THAN A PEBBLE... AND HUSTLE.

WHAT'S THE MATTER? LOSE A CONTACT?

GREEN ARROW?

MY NECK OF THE WOODS HERE, REMEMBER? WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR? CAN I HELP?

SURE. WHY DON'T YOU FIRE YOUR METEOR DETECTION ARROW?

SORRY. FRESH OUT.

MAYBE MY JERK MAGNET WILL FIND SOMETHING.

HEY!

I DIDN'T KNOW HE HAD A SARCASTIC SIDE.

I THINK HE'S MAD BECAUSE SUPERMAN TURNED DOWN OUR MEMBERSHIP OFFER.

NO OFFENSE, BY THE WAY.

LIKE I'D JOIN IF YOU ASKED. WHAT A BABY. HE'S GOT TO LEARN TO TAKE THE BLOWS...

"...AND ROLL WITH THE TIMES."

GENTLEMEN, WE MAY BE GETTING UP IN YEARS... BUT THE BLACKHAWKS ARE STILL THE FINEST FIGHTING SQUADRON THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN.

HOWEVER, WHEN I SAID WE NEEDED UPGRADING TO HOLD OUR OWN IN AN EMERGING WORLD OF SUPER-HEROES, PERHAPS...

...PERHAPS I SPOKE TOO HASTILY.

GET ZIS OFF OF ME.

"I'M THE LISTENER. I KNOW THE SOUND OF EVIL." YEAH, RIGHT.

THIS ARMOR BAN WEIGH A TON, JA.

ZO, BLACKHAWK... HOW VE SURVIVE IN WORLD OF TODAY?

THE WAY WE ALWAYS HAVE, HENDRICKSON.

BY BEING OURSELVES.

TRUST ME... OUR DAY'S NOT DONE YET...

IN BRIGHTEST DAY, IN BLACKEST NIGHT, NO EVIL SHALL ESCAPE MY SIGHT!

HAL, THERE YOU ARE! I'VE BEEN--

WHOOPS. SORRY.

LET THOSE WHO WORSHIP EVIL'S MIGHT BEWARE MY POWER--GREEN LANTERN'S LIGHT!

RECHARGED FOR ANOTHER 24 HOURS, HUH? YOU WON'T NEED THAT RING ON THE BAJA BEACHES, MY FRIEND! SURF AND SUN, HERE WE--

WE'RE NOT GOING TO BAJA, PIE.

WHAT? BUT WE'VE BEEN PLANNING THIS FOR WEEKS!

YOU'RE TOO FAR BEHIND. I PROMISED CAROL YOU'D HAVE THE X-91 READY FOR ME TO TEST BY TUESDAY.

TUES--?

HOW DO I KNOW YOU'LL EVEN BE HERE TUESDAY? YOU'RE ALWAYS OFF WITH THE JLA THESE DAYS!

NO EXCUSES. GET TO WORK.

HAL, WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU? YOU'RE NOT NORMALLY THIS BOSSY. YOU--

MAYBE I OUGHT TO BE.

HAL, C'MON! TALK TO ME!

YOU'RE A MECHANIC, PIE, NOT A SHRINK. NOW GET TO IT. DON'T LET ME DOWN.

...AND ON MARS, WE USE THESE INSTEAD OF... WHAT DID YOU CALL THEM...?

SNAP SNAP

CAPACITORS. COOL. NOW THE WHOLE HEAD-QUARTERS IS INTERACTIVE. THANKS FOR SHARING, GREEN DUDE. MIGHTY HUMAN OF YOU.

OOOH. BAD JOKE. THAT WASN'T A SLAM--

THINK NOTHING OF IT, SNAPPER. IT IS A COMPLIMENT... IN A WAY.

OVER THESE PAST FEW WEEKS, I HAVE LEARNED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT BEING... HUMAN.

HEY! UNCLE SIMON! COME WITH THE CHECKBOOK, I HOPE?

TELL THE JLA'S MYSTERY FINANCIER THAT WE COULD USE NEW HYDRO-PONICS FOR AQUAMAN'S--

HEY, UNC! EARTH TO UNC!

EVERYTHING OKAY? MAN, YOU WERE SOMEWHERE ELSE!

NOT REALLY, SNAPPER. TELL ME, WERE YOU TALKING TO J'ONN?

I WAS ASKED TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM... TO MAKE SURE HE'S NOT DIGGING INTO ANYTHING HE'S NOT SUPPOSED TO.

LIKE INTO WHO HOLDS THE PURSE STRINGS ON THIS JOINT? THAT KINDA STUFF?

JUST BETWEEN US, THEN. THANK YOU, SNAPPER.

YOU'LL LET ME KNOW, WON'T YOU?

I... I GUESS...

RESTAURA

YOU'RE BREAKING UP WITH ME?

BUT... BUT, ROBERT... THINGS WERE GOING SO GOOD!

LINDA, WE SEE EACH OTHER MAYBE ONCE A WEEK.

YOU SNORE, AND I HATE FOREIGN MOVIES. LET'S NOT GET TOO DRAMATIC ABOUT THIS.

IS IT ME? IS IT SOMETHING I DID?

WAS IT THE FLOWERS? OH, GOD, IT WAS THE FLOWERS! COSMO SAID THEY'D BE CUTE--

IT'S NOT YOU, LINDA. I JUST DON'T SEE A FUTURE FOR US.

HOW ARE YOU SO SURE, ROBERT? YOU--YOU DON'T REALIZE HOW MUCH I CARE ABOUT YOU!

HOW CAN YOU SAY THERE'S NO FUTURE? WHAT DO YOU KNOW THAT I DON'T?

...

I HAVE TO GO.

WELL, BARRY, WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE *MOVIE*...

...COMING IN TEN MINUTES *LATE* AND ALL...?

STEVE MCQUEEN

BULLITT

HONESTLY, IRIS? IT WAS... A LITTLE *SLOW*.

NO, IT WASN'T. YOU WERE *DISTRACTED*.

LATELY, EVEN WHEN YOU'RE *HERE*, YOU'RE ABSENT. IT'S AS IF YOUR MIND IS ALWAYS *RACING*.

WHEN YOU'RE NOT WITH *ME*, I CAN ONLY ASSUME YOU'RE AT THE *OFFICE*. TELL ME *HONESTLY*, BARRY... HAVE YOU MET SOMEONE AT *WORK*?

NOT...

NOT *REALLY*? *YES*, REALLY. WHO *IS* SHE?

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU *THINK*.

IS IT *SERIOUS*?

IT'S...SOMEONE I CAN TALK TO ABOUT... *WORK*.

I SEE. THINGS YOU CHOOSE NOT TO SHARE WITH *ME*.

TELL ME, BARRY... IS THAT PART OF YOUR LIFE MORE IMPORTANT THAN *THIS* PART?

I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO *CHOOSE*.

YOU'RE GOING TO *HAVE* TO.

"MORE SURVEILLANCE, SNAPPER."

SOMETIMES I THINK THEY GIVE ME JUNK TO DO JUST TO GET ME OUT OF THEIR *HAIR*.

HOW MANY MORE VIDEOCAMERAS DOES THIS HEADQUARTERS *NEED*, ANYWAY?

I'M OVER THE *POWERCORE*, RIGHT...?

NOPE. WAY OFF. THOSE ARE *J'ONN'S* QUARTERS. SORRY, MAN, DIDN'T MEAN TO PEEK *IN* ON YOU WITHOUT *KNOCKING*--

ROLLING HILLS MENTAL HOSPITAL

YOU CAN GO IN NOW, MR. ANDERSON.

HELLO, STEVIE.

BOBBY...?

EVERYBODY, IT'S *BOBBY*! MY BROTHER *BOBBY*! BOB*BEEE*!

WHERE HAVE YOU *BEEN*, BOBBY? IT'S BEEN A *SKAZILLION MONTHS* SINCE THE LAST TIME YOU...

I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE *EVER* COMIN' BACK, BOBBY! *YAY!*

I CAN'T *STAY*, STEVIE. I JUST CAME TO SAY *GOODBYE*.

ARE YOU GOING *AWAY*?

NOT EXACTLY.

I WANT IT TO BE LIKE IT *WAS* WHEN WE HAD A *SISTER*, BOBBY. YOU AND JANIE AND ME GOING TO THE *BALL GAMES*.

I DON'T WANT TO BE *IN* HERE ANYMORE.

BOBBY, *NO*! I *SAID* I WAS *SORRY*, I *SAID*! I DIDN'T *KNOW* JANIE COULDN'T *SWIM* SHE WAS SO *TINY* THERE *FLOAT-ING* BOBBY SHE--

WE'VE TALKED ABOUT THIS, STEVIE. THAT WAS A LONG, LONG TIME AGO.

DON'T GO.

I'M OUT OF TIME, STEVIE.

THEN HERE. I MADE THIS FOR YOU, 'CASE YOU EVER...

... FOR WHEN YOU CAME TO *SEE* ME NEXT.

YOU GO. 'SOKAY. YOU HAVE A *LIFE*. GO 'WAY ON YOUR *TRIP*, BOBBY.

I'LL BE HERE WHEN YOU GET BACK.

UCLA

Stevie

Janie

Bobby

Stevie

GUYS! GUYS! SOMEONE'S IN HERE!

IN WHERE, SNAPPER?

IN THE HEADQUARTERS! IN J'ONN'S ROOM! A SPY!

A...

GOOD LORD. I... I KNOW HIM...!

HIS NAME IS MIKE! I THOUGHT HE WAS A COP IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD! WHAT'S HE--HOW DID HE--?

CANARY, WAIT! LOOK! YOU SAY YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

I... THINK I DO, TOO!

PARIS... JACKSON? HE WORKS IN MY OFFICE!

YEAH? THEN HE IS A SPY... OR SHOULD I SAY, "SHE"?

"LORA DENTON." CLAIMED TO BE AN F.A.A. INVESTIGATOR.

HOW ABOUT YOU, AQUAMAN? FRIEND OF YOURS?

SOMEONE I TRUSTED.

SOMEONE WE ALL TRUSTED.

THOOM!

WHAT ARE YOU HIDING FROM US, J'ONN?

ANSWERS. NOW.

STOP. EVERYONE STAY CALM. I'D LIKE TO THINK J'ONN HAS A REASONABLE--

--EXPLANATION--

AQUAMA

METAMORPHO

METAL MEN

ATOM

FILES. DETAILED FILES.

ON US...ON OTHERS.

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, J'ONN?

I--

HOW DARE YOU? WHEN YOU WERE... THAT OTHER PERSON... I TOLD YOU THINGS. YOU VIOLATED ME!

YOU VIOLATED US ALL!

YOU CALLED ME BY MY REAL NAME ONCE, DIDN'T YOU? WE SO PANICKED, IT DIDN'T REGISTER... UNTIL NOW.*

HOW COULD I HAVE MISSED THAT?

IT HAPPENED AT THE END OF #5 -- PETE.

THIS IS MY FAULT.

WHY IS IT--?

WE TOOK YOU AT YOUR WORD THAT YOU WERE AS YOU SEEM TO BE.

OBVIOUSLY, THAT WAS A MISTAKE. HOW DEEP IS YOUR DECEPTION?

WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR A MISSING APPELLAXIAN.

MAYBE IT'S YOU.

IT ISN'T. PLEASE... TRUST ME.

NO!

WHY SHOULD WE? WHY SHOULD WE BELIEVE ANYTHING YOU SAY?

HE'S RUNNING!

FORGET IT, ALIEN! YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE!

LOOK OUT! HE'S GONE *INVISIBLE!*

SPREAD *OUT!* WE'VE GOT TO *FIND* HIM BEFORE HE--

CHOOM!

THE CEILING!!

I'LL TRY TO *TRACK* HIM...BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT LUCK I'LL *HAVE.*

STAY HERE.

YEAH.

YEAH.

KRASH!

LEAGUE HEADQUARTERS. GOT TO GET INSIDE...TELL THEM EVERYTHING.

THEY'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO. THEY'RE OUR ONLY HOPE.

THEY--

NO...!

PLEASE! THIS--THIS ISN'T WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE! I--I'VE COME TO--TO WARN YOU THAT--

OH, NO.

FZAAK

THAT WHAT, ANDERSON?

THAT YOU WOULD CRACK? THAT YOU WOULD BETRAY LOCUS'S SECRETS--ALL OUR PLANS, ALL THAT WE'VE WORKED FOR--TO THE JUSTICE LEAGUE?

SO NOTED.

TO BE CONTINUED...